

Application No. 09/871,991
Amendment Date June 28, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 8, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1~~ A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one learning image input;
- b. accumulating a weight image from the at least one learning image;
- c. processing the at least one learning image using the accumulated weight image to produce a weight image output wherein the weight image is derived from an intra-weight image mixed with an inter-weight image.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~mixing method is~~ intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a minimum operation.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~mixing method is~~ intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a simple average operation.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~mixing method is~~ intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a maximum operation.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1~~ A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one learning image input;

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- b. accumulating a weight image from the at least one learning image;
- c. processing the at least one learning image using the accumulated weight image to produce a weight image output wherein the weight image is derived from mixing
 - a: i. an intra-deviation image;
 - b: ii. an intra-weight image;
 - e: iii. an inter-deviation image;
 - d: iv. an inter-weight image.

Claims 11-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 17~~ A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one image input;
- b. adjusting a weight image by iteration responsive to a cost function comprising
 - i. performing fitting using an adjusted weight image to generate a fitting result;
 - ii. determine cost function values from the fitting result;
 - iii. adjusting the weight image using cost function values;
 - iv. repeat steps i, ii, and iii until a stopping criteria is met wherein the stopping criteria is determined by the maximum allowable error.
- c. estimating using the adjusted weight image to produce a fitting result.

Claim 19 (canceled).